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**PORTOLA MAN INDICTED FOR DISTRIBUTING AND
POSSESSING CHILD PORNOGRAPHY**

SACRAMENTO - United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a federal grand jury returned a two-count indictment charging GEORGE LEONARD SCHMIEDEL, 69, of Portola, with distribution and possession of child pornography.

This case is the product of an extensive investigation by the San Francisco division of the United States Postal Inspection Service.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Camil A. Skipper, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment alleges that SCHMIEDEL knowingly distributed images depicting minors engaged in sexually explicit conduct through the Internet in expectation of receiving a thing of value, but not for pecuniary gain. The indictment also alleges that he possessed at least 300 such images depicting prepubescent minors on two compact discs. The indictment further alleges that the images depicted sadistic or other violent conduct.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law for distributing child pornography is twenty years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000. A five-year term of imprisonment is required. The maximum penalty for possession of child pornography is ten years imprisonment and a fine of up to \$250,000.

If convicted of either offense, SCHMIEDEL will be required to register as a sex offense pursuant to federal law and will forfeit to the government the computer equipment used in the offense.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

A copy of this press release is available at <http://www.usdoj.gov/usao/cae/home>, select Press Releases.

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